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YUGOSLAVIA: Continued Unrest in Kosovo

*Belgrade is still relying on ad hoc measures to prevent additional unrest in Kosovo Province, but problems with ethnic Albanians will continue there and may spread.*

Provincial leaders closed Pristina University after students demonstrated twice in a week and had again demanded that Kosovo, an autonomous province of Serbia, be granted republic status. Belgrade has refused, fearing that it would antagonize the Serbs and aggravate the nationalities problem in other parts of the country.

Although the Yugoslav leaders believe that the university is the center of nationalist activities in Kosovo, its closure is unlikely to dampen sentiments, which are apparently more widespread. Leaders in the neighboring Republics of Macedonia and Montenegro also seem worried about their Albanian minorities.

Five Albanian nationalists on trial in the Macedonian capital of Skopje have been convicted of "hostile activity" against the state over the past two years. In Montenegro, authorities have admitted that they are having problems with "nationalistic excesses."

Purges and resignations in the local party, the media, and the university in Kosovo continue, but the leadership in Belgrade appears unable to deal with the basic problems of Albanian-Serb animosity and the backward economy in Kosovo. Preoccupation with the situation in Kosovo may account for the delay in electing a new secretary of the party presidium to replace the incumbent, whose two-year term expired last week.

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